

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1904.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 30, 1904.

THE GREAT POWERS OF THE OPPOSITION.

These after-the-session bones for Mr. Hazen and his few but faithful followers which have appeared of late in the Conservative newspapers are not easy to understand, unless the Hazen forces scent the defections and are preparing for the fray which they believe to be near at hand. There is a report that the vacant seats are to be filled in June, and that report, probably, has led to some remarkable assertions concerning the power of provincial opposition candidates, successful, defeated and prospective.

After the session day was concluded the other day the opinion was general that what the men of Mr. Hazen's following required most was a long period of rest and recreation. So barren of useful suggestions were they during the winter, and so few questions of public importance did they raise, they must have looked forward eagerly to the long recess as a time during which they might get together and think. Only sheer necessity could compel any opposition newspaper to come out right after this session and tell the people how great an opposition Mr. Hazen and the corporal guard. The conviction that an election is coming soon may make such a hopeless journalistic task necessary. Otherwise provincial politics would have been permitted to sleep for a while longer.

But—since the question is up—why send to Fredericton any opposition man from the vacant constituencies? It is not necessary. The opposition newspapers have proved it. What does any opposition man desire? Let him name it, and threaten to run against the government if he wishes not to be complied with. The method is simple, and we have the Sun's affirmation that it works like a charm. "Charm" is the very word, indeed. Behold now Mr. John E. Wilson. He fixes his hypnotic eye upon Mr. McKewen, Mr. Tweedie, Mr. Pugsley or another, and any or all of those gentlemen fall beneath the potent influence of the spell. Let Mr. Wilson but move his left eye and the legislature grinds out a secret ballot law. If it be his other eye the obedient government grinds out such other measure as the potential candidate may have in his mind at the moment.

Mr. Wilson, it is true, has not publicly proclaimed such powers, but they have been claimed for him by the newspapers which foresee an election and which must find some means of impressing the public with a fitting idea of the usefulness and power of an opposition—even if it be as small, as hopeless and as badly led as that in point. Mr. Hazen is powerful for good in opposition, it appears. By all means keep him in opposition then. Mr. Wilson works wonders by a mere threat to run. Let Mr. Wilson exercise the great gifts, which mark him as a private citizen of almost supernatural attributes. It would be folly to increase his expenses and destroy his influence by attempting to send him to Fredericton. As he stands he is more powerful than a cabinet minister, or six of them. The Sun should be content.

SHELL-FIRE VS. TORPEDOES.

Some question has been raised as to what weapons should and should not be used in war. There has been a protest from many disciples of peace and of humanity because of the use of mines and torpedoes which tear a battleship to pieces and annihilate 700 men in a single minute. Admiral Makarov's men died quickly. Now turn to the picture of the Russian cruiser Variaz, battered and raked by Japanese shells outside Chemulpo harbor. The narrative was written by an American who saw the action from the U. S. gunboat Vicksburg and afterward assisted in succoring the wounded. The words are harsh, and the language is shocking, yet both are weak when they are employed to describe what really happened:

"It was then that one of the Japanese battleships was seen to run close to the island on the east, and send forth shells, one after the other, into the Variaz; the effect was terrific. When the Variaz came to anchor in the harbor, medical assistance was sent to her from all the foreign warships. Fifty yards away from her we could hear the yelps and screams of her wounded; her decks looked like a slaughter-house; human limbs were scattered about, with blood still oozing from them; men were lying about with legs and arms shot off, bleeding to death or already dead. One poor unfortunate was being lowered down from the fighting top, and

life crises would have saved the heart of the most intrepid; as he touched the deck he gave several yelps and died. Those that lived were still at their guns, expecting to be blown into eternity; some of them had their faces enmeshed with powder, others were half grinning, half crying, in a crazed and horrible manner. The sight was both disgusting and pitiable to look upon."

If the mine and the torpedo were abolished should schrapnel and the heavier shells remain in the list of permissible weapons? And if these are banned what of the modern rifle bullet which "rings" at certain ranges and rends, at those ranges, as if it weighed a pound? If some weapons are to be abolished, where must a beginning or an end be made? Or must war be made so horrible that humanity will turn with loathing not only from actual combat but from the very proposal to settle national quarrels on the battlefield?

WHERE ARE THE AMERICANS?

A humorous story which recently went the rounds may be applied to the problem confronting the Americans because of the tremendous increase of their foreign-born population. The story is that a political slate was being made up in a county where the people were mainly Swedes, Hebrews and Italians. Men of these nationalities were named for six out of seven positions, and then a Swedish politician, to the surprise of the others, suggested one Jones, an American, for the remaining vacancy. "We must do something to catch the American vote," he explained.

It is a joke which is growing serious across the line. The chief of the United States treasury bureau of statistics reports that persons born in America of foreign parents, or born in Europe, form more than seventy-five per cent of the entire population of New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Detroit, Cleveland and Milwaukee, and in these cities, says the statistician, "they may absolutely control the law-making and administration if they choose to act in concert." If they choose to so act then what will the native American do? He will be where the greatest of modern British poets placed him:

He easy unwatched heath he lends
From the auditor to Guadalupe
Till, shrouded out by stolen friends,
He camps, at sunrise, on the steep.
Barring the South, which has the negro, in practically all the great American cities persons of foreign birth or parentage constitute more than half the population. In seven states they exceed sixty per cent; in fifteen states they more than equal the native Americans. There were in the United States according to the census of 1900, 26,000,000 people foreign born or of foreign-born parents. That was thirty-four per cent of the population. And still they pour in at the rate of almost a million a year, a great percentage of them being European peasants who have little desire or capacity to become good citizens as that term is understood on this continent. No wonder some of the American newspapers of both parties are seriously asking what is to be the end of it, and openly expressing the fear that the end will be far from desirable.

At the moment this question is up it is odd to find in the New York Evening Post a letter signed "B. Russell, Ottawa, Can.," in which the writer quotes for the consideration of Americans from a memorandum of the late Lord John A. Macdonald, speaking on The Rise and Fall of the Mexican Empire. Action said—

"A confederacy loses its true character when it rules over dependencies; and a democracy lives a threatened life that admits millions of a strange and inferior race which it can neither assimilate nor absorb."

"The warning," says Mr. Russell, quoting Herbert Paul, "was unneeded, for the days of American Imperialism were not yet. But the words have a perennial wisdom which the new owners of the Philippines might find it worth their while to consider." The millions to whom the United States has given citizenship constitute an even greater problem than that they have in the Philippines.

RUSSIAN PRESS AGENTS.

The Russian censors permit no one to send out news conflicting with the official version of any occurrence, which version is carefully prepared with the object of making the Russian outlook appear as rosy as possible. But the censors do not discourage the sending of all despatches. By no means. They see to it that the wires are kept hot with "news" favorable to the Czar's cause, and they have press agents active and resourceful enough to make the fortune of a broken-down theatrical star during a dull season.

lot of heating. In many cases, whether they won or lost, they fought most stubbornly and were not dismayed or discouraged so matter how severe their losses were. On some battlefields their percentage of killed and wounded was almost without parallel. Where will Russia make her first determined stand? If it be at Harbin news of great Japanese losses is to be expected. Japan, having lost little or nothing as yet, is doubtless prepared for the test which is to come. The world does not yet know whether the Yellow men or the Muscovite can stand the harder pounding, but it should have some light on that question before very long. Even the press agents admit that no serious attempt was made to prevent the crossing of the Yalu.

NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH LINES.

Ottawa despatches to some of the Toronto and Montreal newspapers deal at length with Mr. Emmerson's visit to New Brunswick and the government's contemplated purchase of the Canada Eastern, a purchase which Mr. Blair advocated when he was in the government, but which he could not persuade the other members of the cabinet to agree upon. Mr. Emmerson, according to the Toronto World (Can.), is trying to do what Mr. Blair could not do when he was at the height of his power. The World's opinion is that the other ministers would not consent to the purchase of the Canada Eastern because they regarded Mr. Blair as already powerful enough, an objection which disappeared with Mr. Blair. The World thinks the acquisition of the Gibson road might be the forerunner of the absorption by the Intercolonial of all the other New Brunswick lines, including the Kent Northern, Beckettville Railway, Albert Railway, Albert Southern Railway, Elgin & Petkovick, Central Railway, Upham & St. Martins Railway, and Restigouche & Victoria Railway. Says the World: "Incidentally, the taking over of the Canada Eastern would ensure the Gibson influence to the Liberal party and give Mr. Emmerson a somewhat sure foothold in New Brunswick."

The World, of course, is an advocate of government ownership. The Montreal Star says the government has decided to buy the Canada Eastern, and in doing so will be carrying out one of Mr. Blair's suggestions; and the Star adds: "There may also be a modification of the government's policy regarding the construction of a line paralleling the Intercolonial from Lewis to Moncton, to which Mr. Blair was so strongly opposed."

Some idea of the Canada Eastern may be arrived at from the following facts which the Montreal Star presents: Its total length, from Chatham to Fredericton, is 139 miles. The ordinary share capital of the Canada Eastern is \$10,000,000, all of which is subscribed and paid up. There is no preference stock. It has a bonded indebtedness of \$1,854,174.00. It has received in bonuses from the dominion government \$374,839.84, including \$24,394.84 of iron rails granted to the Chatham branch. From the government of New Brunswick, it has had to the extent of \$400,000; and it has received municipal bonds amounting to \$200,000. Its capital from other sources is \$31,671.00. The total capital in the road is \$13,671,000, of which \$2,106,411 is paid up. The company has no floating debt. The total cost of the railway and rolling stock was \$2,098,411.33; the radius of sharpest curve is 955, and the heaviest gradient is eighty feet per mile. It has eleven engines, five first and two second-class cars, twelve cattle and box cars, and eighty-eight platform cars. Its earnings last year were: Passengers, \$56,985; freight, \$73,819; mails and express, \$1,888; other, \$11,536, and its net earnings were \$2,674, the proportion of earnings to working expenses being 1.02.

As for Mr. Blair's suggestions, the government is not likely to pay Mr. Blair any unnecessary attention, its chief object apparently being to keep him quiet. Whether or not Mr. Emmerson now proposes to try to prevent the "parallel" of the I. C. R., does not appear. No one yet knows what points the Quebec-Moncton section will touch if it is ever built. There must be adequate surveys first. The Montreal Transcript, Mr. Emmerson's organ, intimates that the purchase of the Canada Eastern may come up during the present session of Parliament. Evidently the Transcript has heard that the government will buy. What is the price now?

WHAT THE NATIONS SPEND PER HEAD.

The money spent by the government of New Zealand, in proportion to population, is five times as much per capita as that expended by the United States and four times as much as that spent by Canada. Australia's per capita expenditure is nearly as great as New Zealand's, and the United Kingdom is not very far behind. Statistics recently compiled show that while the expenditure of the United States, with 80,000,000 of people, is \$640,000,000; that of the United Kingdom, with 42,000,000 of people, is \$880,000,000; that of France, with 39,000,000 people, is \$695,000,000; that of Germany, with 58,000,000 people, is \$533,000,000; while in practically every country aside from China and India, with their enormous population, the per capita of government expenditure is greater than in the United States.

Even in the case of Russia, with its population of 141,000,000, the per capita of government expenditure is about the same as that of the United States. The statistician puts the population of the United States at 90,372,000, the government expenditure in 1903 at \$640,232,000, the per capita expenditure \$7.09. The per

capita government expenditure of Canada is given at \$9.30; the German Empire, \$9.45; Italy, \$10.75; Austria-Hungary, \$14.27; Belgium, \$17.40; France, \$17.84; the United Kingdom, \$21.30; and Australia, \$37.60. Russia's annual expenditure is put, for the last available year, at \$1,116,000,000, as against \$644,883,000 in the United States; but the fact that Russia's population is given at 141,000,000 brings the per capita expenditure to about the figure shown by the United States.

The United States had a surplus of \$50,000,000 year before last, France one of only \$20,000, Germany a deficit of \$27,000,000, and the United Kingdom a deficit of \$100,000,000. The following table shows the population, expenditure, and per capita expenditure in some of the more important countries of the world in the latest available year:—

Countries.	Popula- tion.	Expendi- ture.	Per cap. dispo- nible.
New Zealand	785,000	\$20,241,000	\$25.90
Australia	3,772,000	122,148,000	32.39
Germany	65,490,000	877,730,000	21.30
France	33,862,000	686,250,000	17.84
United Kingdom	42,000,000	880,000,000	21.30
Belgium	5,572,000	122,148,000	21.30
Portugal	5,428,000	122,148,000	21.30
Canada	9,372,000	86,232,000	9.30
Sweden	5,128,000	49,883,000	9.64
Denmark	2,512,000	24,394,840	9.64
Switzerland	2,512,000	24,394,840	9.64
United States	90,372,000	640,232,000	7.09

Canada for the last year or two has had a surplus, the last one being about \$15,000,000.

A POOR SHOWING.

Ten familiar quotations from the Bible and sixteen well known quotations from the poets were recently submitted to 300 students attending the New York University, the Normal College of the City of New York, and the DeWitt Clinton High School—all institutions whose standing is regarded as high. The quotations were submitted without warning, and the students had no opportunity to consult together or open any book. They were asked to name the authors of the quotations and tell in what works they occurred. "Well done, then good and faithful servant," "Water, water everywhere," "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen," "The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold," "Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we shall die," "Handsome is as handsome does," "Where the wicked cease from troubling," and "It is not good that man should be alone," will serve to show the nature of the test. The submitted table tells how the students of the three representative institutions succeeded:—

Total number of quotations submitted.	26
Biblical quotations.....	10
Partial correct answers to all 100 cal quotations.....	1
Partially correct answers to all 100 cal quotations.....	0
Correct answers to all quotations.....	0
Partial correct answers to all 100 cal quotations.....	13

Only one student recognized the ten Biblical quotations as such, and he ascribed but four of them to the proper books. In the High School the record was wretched. In the Normal School "none of the girls correctly ascribed all the Bible quotations, the best record being eight, and in these the proper books were not named. There were many twos and threes, also, but the conspicuous feature of the returns from this institution was the manner in which they went about the test. The girls generally speaking the test gave shocking results. The mistakes of those who guessed were most abundant in many cases and in others showed amazing ignorance.

CANADA'S OLD MAN WONDERFUL.

The words of reverence, patriotism and high hope which rose to the lips of Canada's Old Man Wonderful yesterday when he acknowledged the honor done him by his youthful colleagues, were good words and will bear much repetition. The address to Senator Wark, which accompanied a reference presented to him, closed with the compliment to the fact that Providence had watched over him and that he had been worthy. It was this part of the address which appealed most strongly to the man of an hundred years and sixty-nine days. He said in reply:—

"I join with you most cordially in the belief that God exercises a wise providence over the affairs of the world, and especially over the affairs of this Empire; that He intends to make a powerful, populous and prosperous Empire, united under our gracious sovereign in a policy of peace, and that he will be greatly blessed under His guidance in bringing about the happy time when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the seas."

Young men and old—but all of them young in comparison with David Wark—the foremost men of this young country, joined in felicitating the sage upon his continued health, happiness, and usefulness, as they score years. The recipient of their happy phrases moved like a man deliberate rather than weak, and spoke as one whose heart and head are at their best and make naught of the great burden of years.

This old man, revered and wise, whom the first men among his fellows delighted to honor, spoke first of God and next of his country. He has regarded both since his youth and in religion and patriotism are to be found the governing inspiration of his remarkable career. He saw all of the reign of Victoria the Good, and, as the Premier happily remarked, he has seen the first years of the beneficent reign of that sovereign who bids fair to be known in history as Edward the Peacemaker, than which title no king has borne a prouder. The words of Senator Wark concerning the future of Canada and of the Empire

are impressive on the lips of one who has seen the storm clouds gather and go, lower and at length show the silver lining, ever since the days when Napoleon's shadow darkened and then faded from the European sky. Looking forward the Nestor of the Senate sees the Empire waxing ever greater and more powerful for right and justice and light in the dark places, playing its great part in hastening that time when the nations shall plead their quarrels before their wise men in council and when the soldier's occupation shall be gone indeed. Senator Wark is one whom his fellows do themselves honor in honoring. His words are those of good cheer and wise counsel, and in his speaking he sets an example which may be placed before all Canadians to their benefit.

HEAR THE COMMODORE.

There is no longer need to call in an expert to doctor the St. John water supply. Commodore Stewart, of the Chatham World, whose nautical knowledge makes him confident, and who naturally knows just what to do in our situation, as he lives in Chatham and is not hampered by the facts, comes to St. John's aid in an editorial entitled "The St. John Common Council's Continuous Performance as a Wrecker with Problems." He says this city has been for twenty-five years wrestling with what it calls a problem whereas if we had any sense we would know that the matter is as easy as rolling off a log. "The way to cure an insufficiency of water," says the Commodore, "is to get more water, and the way to get it is to lay pipes to a sufficiently large source of supply." This discovery is startling enough to make every St. John alderman sit up and think. The remedy seems obvious enough as the Chatham man states it, and it is really wonderful that someone hereabouts did not know that the way to get more water is to get it, and that the way to get it is to go to some place where it is. The Commodore is, in fact, a human divining rod.

The problem here has not been to find the water, but to find aldermen who would permit the people to get at the water. The Commodore points to Loch Lomond. So did the late Gilbert Murdoch. There are nearer lakes which might do. But the aldermen have hitherto combined to block the road to relief and safety. The World suggests a drastic remedy:—

"The city charter should be suspended for a year or two and an autocratic ruler placed over it. Then, after necessary improvements were made, the Common Council might be allowed to resume the business of grappling with new problems at the old stand."

An insufficient water supply in New Brunswick's chief city, the Winter Port of Canada, though an exhaustless source of supply, 300 feet above the city datum, can be had for \$200,000, the interest of which would be equal to twenty cents a year—two cigars or ginger ales—for each inhabitant!

The Commodore does not name the autocratic ruler he has in mind, but an eagle-eyed public can see who is meant.

SUCCESS IS IN SIGHT.

If the council carries out the treasury board's recommendation and gives \$2,000 to the twenty-member committee, plans for the celebration can be pushed forward with much assurance of complete success. As a matter of fact a special meeting should be called to pass this appropriation, and the aldermen in council might add \$1,000 to the \$2,000 offered by the treasury board and be sure that the citizens generally would heartily approve their action. At yesterday's board meeting no alderman suggested that less than \$2,000 be granted, and several favored a larger sum. Perhaps the compromise agreed upon may shorten discussion of the matter in the council, where one or two gentlemen with whose views it is difficult to sympathize, may feel called upon to renew their attack upon Champlain, as an ancient mariner with whose adventures we are now conversant.

Care in authorizing the expenditure of public money is ever commendable, yet if we compare the proposed grant with other outlays from the civic purse it will appear a most laudable one. For such as persist in taking only a matter-of-fact view of the case it should be sufficient to say that the money spent will be spent again many times over by the visitors. Certainly no alderman who stands for a liberal grant need fear that his constituents will call him a bad steward. There is general agreement that the celebration must be a creditable one, and that prompt and generous action by the council is now requisite.

THE WOODSTOCK VERDICT.

Clergymen may find a sermon in the trial which was concluded Thursday at Woodstock. For those who realize what the facts themselves preach there will be some measure of relief because the trial was brief, and that the evidence, so clearly analyzed by the judge, was direct enough to banish all doubt from the minds of the jurymen as to the supreme debt incurred by the prisoner at the bar. The young man, doubtless, lacked many of the advantages which others in the province have enjoyed, yet he too had many advantages. The law can but emphasize anew the knowledge that its hand is heavy, and that a life deliberately taken must be paid for by a life. There were many in court yesterday who felt and expressed sympathy for the wretched man on trial. Yet to those must have come home the homely truth spoken from the bench that false sorrow due to the peril of a murderer must not be permitted to confuse the issue and

St. John, N. B., April 30, 1904.

MEN'S SUITS \$3.95 \$5.00

Those Suits and Pants we sold you of last week are going quickly and no wonder, for they're really worth from \$6.00 to \$10.00. We bought them at a bargain and the public got the benefit. Our sale prices are \$3.95 and \$5.00. In the lot there are Pants worth from \$2.50 to \$3.50. Selling at our special price..... **\$1.98**

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cannot relieve the jurors of that penalty of their citizenship which makes them judges over life and death.

Counsel for the accused made every effort to shield him as one irresponsible for what he did. That is well. The measure of the law is exact. The prisoner may go free if he does not come within the limits set. That there was insanity in his family, however, proves nothing useful with respect to George. The jury believed that he was responsible on that night in March, and that he killed deliberately. Believing so the jury's duty was simple if unpleasant. It may even be argued that if the surgeons were blameless, which no one is likely to believe, it was the prisoner's shot which made surgical skill necessary, and that therefore he stands just where he would stand had there been no time to summon a doctor to the victim's aid.

M'LUD ALVERSTONE.

Lord Alverstone, our friend of the Alaska tribunal, is to the fore again. At a banquet in London the good man told his hearers the history of the last few years had shown the wisdom of neglecting nothing which served to bind closer the various parts of the British Empire.

To this pleasing and sound sentiment no doubt all present subscribed with a hearty "Right yare M'lud." But as a binder together of the various parts of the Empire Lord Alverstone, judged by his efforts in our direction, cannot be hailed as an amazing success.

Fortunately Canada is loyal enough to stand without hitching. Were she not the Alverstones would have caused her to cast loose long ago.

Although there was at first some outcry from Newfoundland to the effect that her interests had been sacrificed by the Anglo-French agreement the noise appears to have been premature and without reason. Newfoundland, and the Empire, are to be congratulated that the great business of removing causes of friction between France and Great Britain was accomplished without creating in any quarter that dissatisfaction which here followed the Alaska decision. The Colonies, however, are disposed to sacrifice much in order that Britain may secure and hold great allies.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Japan continues to push ahead. At least some of her troops have crossed the Yalu.

Talk of mediation is all very well, but can the nations which permitted, if they did not encourage, the Jap and the Russian to get into the pit together stop them now that their spurs are red?

It is just as well to permit Newfoundland to sell her fish where she can best dispose of them without any advice from Canada. In similar circumstances Canada would not welcome interference by Newfoundland.

So far as is known Russia's fleet has sunk four merchant ships belonging to the enemy this far. The losses to the Czar's navy through the errors or incompetency of its own officers have been far more serious than those inflicted upon the Japanese.

The Vladivostok squadron which has appeared again and which will menace Japanese transports until it is rounded up, consists of the cruisers Rossia, Grozoboi, Rurik and Bagatelle. The last is a protect-

ed cruiser and the others are armored cruisers, the four being among the most powerful in the Russian navy. Wonsan, or Gensan, is about 330 miles southwest of Vladivostok.

The Messenger and Visitor, the Baptist organ of the Maritime Provinces, is somewhat doubtful about the Grand Trunk Pacific. We quote a few sentences from the purely Christian view of a project denounced in some quarters as unlovely:

"It is difficult to say whether or not the adoption of the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme will strengthen the government. * * * The people of these Maritime Provinces would also be glad if there were a stronger guarantee that when the road shall be completed the products of the West will principally find their way over it to Canadian ports for winter supply rather than to United States ports."

The most notorious and wealthiest gambler in America, Mr. Richard Canfield, to punish whom a special law was recently passed by the New York legislature, has returned to the American metropolis after an extensive sojourn at the European watering places. He sailed under an assumed name because of the unpleasant newspaper notoriety to which he has been subjected. "For," said Mr. Canfield, "I don't want to have a lot of old women staring at me as if I were a green turtle with a striped tail." He was quite lofty, also, in his disdain of the gentlemen of the press. "I never give out an interview, and do not care to discuss my affairs," Mr. Jerome, the district attorney of New York city, who recently said he would send Mr. Canfield to Sing Sing, will now feel that it is his move.

The Canadian Industrial League, a branch of which was formed in St. John this week, has many excellent aims in its programme. The encouragement of the purchase of Canadian goods by Canadians and the determination to prove that our manufactures are inferior to none are matters which appeal strongly to the independent spirit of the country. The proposal to take the tariff out of politics is good, but those who believe it can be done in the near future are few. Many men who might have attended the meeting were absent not because they doubted the good faith of those who promoted it but because they saw in this offshoot of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association some indication of the hopelessness of seeking to make of the tariff anything but a party question, or because they believed that the league will become a party weapon hereafter.

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